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## CURLING: A NATIONAL GAME OF SCOTLAND.



A CURLING MATCH ON ONE OF THE SCOTTISH LAKES.

THE game of Curling is a favourite Scottish pastime during the winter season; but though decidedly a national game, it has never been a universal one in that country. In some places where it once flourished, it has now gone into decay; but in many others it prospers beyond all precedent, especially round about the city of Edinburgh.

The historical notices of this game, appear to prove that though now so thoroughly naturalized in Scotland, it is probably of continental origin; all the technical language of the game is Dutch or German, and this directly points out the Low Countries as the place where it originated. Its introduction into Scotland is ascribed to some Flemish emigrants, who settled in that country, about the end of the fifteenth, and beginning of the sixteenth century. No mention is made of it prior to the seventeenth century. Camden, in his *Britannia*, 1607, mentions quite incidentally, in speaking of the Isle of Copinsha, that "there are found upon it plenty of excellent stones for the game of curling." But it seems likely that the game, as formerly played, was nothing more than the game of quoits practised on the ice. The old stones which yet remain, are unhandled, unpolished blocks, having only a niche for the finger and thumb, as if they were intended to be thrown; and very different from the beautifully balanced and highly finished stones now employed.

Many local or parochial curling societies exist in Scotland and are in full operation, but in England the game has never taken root. A few attempts have been made by Scottish residents, in different parts of the

country, to establish this healthful and invigorating game; but they have not met with the success they deserved. In Ireland also we are told that curling "languishes, grows dim, and dies;" but it has been established with better success in the frozen regions of North America.

Pennant describes this amusement as a winter game, played on the ice, by sliding from one mark to another large stones of from forty to seventy pounds weight, of a hemispherical form, with a wooden or iron handle at top: the object of the player being to lay his stone as near the mark as possible; to guard that of his partner, which has been well laid before; or to strike off that of his antagonist.

In playing this game, each curler is supplied with a block of stone having the upper and under surface nearly plane, and as smooth as art can make it, so that as little resistance as possible may be offered to the ready sliding of the stone upon the ice. Curling is played on a *rink* or course marked out on the ice, which should be smooth, and as free from cracks as possible, particularly such as are longitudinal, which interfere most with the straightforward passage of the stone. The place for the rink being chosen, a mark is made at each end called a *tee*, *toesee*, or *neitter*. It is a small hole made in the ice, round which two circles of different diameters are drawn that the relative distances of the stones from the tee may be calculated at sight, as actual measurement is not permitted, till the playing at each end is finished. These circles, in the technical language of the game, are called the *broughs*. A score is then drawn across the

rink at each end, distant from the tee about the sixth part of the length of the rink: this is called the *hog-score*; and those stones that do not pass that line are, as it were, distanced and thrown aside as useless. It is frequently made waving to distinguish it from any accidental scratch. The length of the rink varies from thirty to fifty yards, according to the intensity of the frost, and the smoothness of the ice. The breadth is about ten or twelve feet. When the ice is covered with snow, it must be cleared to that extent, and also ten or twelve feet beyond the tee, at each end, that those stones which are impelled with too much force, may have room to get far enough beyond the rink. The game is at first remarkably simple. The lead endeavours to lay his stone as near the tee as possible. If it be a little short of it upon the middle of the rink, it is reckoned to be better laid than if he touched it. The object of the next in order is nearly the same as that of the lead; but when he attempts to strike away the stone of his antagonist, if he miss his aim, his stone will pass by and be completely useless. If he place his stone near the tee, without minding that of his antagonist, it has a chance of remaining there, and gaining a shot to his party. The object of the next in order, is to guard the stone of his partner, or to strike off that of his antagonist. The one who follows, if a stone belonging to his own party be nearest the tee, attempts to guard it; if one of the opposite party, to strike it off, or to make the stone rest as near the tee as possible, if no stone be near the tee. When the stones on both sides have all been played, the one nearest the tee counts one, and if the second, third, fourth, &c., belong to the same side, all these count so many shots; thirty-one (or in some instances twenty-one) of which, for each side, is the number usually played for.

To each rink there are two captains or directors of the game called *skips*. Much depends on the skip; for while he takes his own turn at the tee, it is his duty to instruct and advise the others. Each skip is provided with a besom, with which he not only sweeps the rink, but gives a right direction to the stones which are likely to deviate from the proper line. It is also the business of the skips, to marshal the rinks, and to place each player in the station where he will be most efficient. The first two players should be old and athletic *leads*; the last three players should also be athletic and experienced men; weak and uncertain players should be put in the middle. It is a distinguished feature of the game of Curling, that man is leagued with, and opposed to man, "not for the purpose of muscular exertion, but for that of skill and address."

Dumfriesshire is a great curling county, and there, in general, *bonspiels*, or matches between rival parishes or districts, are played with forty players a side. The parish of Lochmaben, which abounds in lakes, and is very populous, enrolls about 150 names in her curling list, all of whom are eligible to play in parish matches. By the resolutions of the society, however, to meet the general custom of the district, forty of the best players are annually elected in the month of November, to play in all *bonspiels*, and to maintain the honour of the parish. These forty players are divided into five rinks, headed by five skips, who are *ex-officio* President and Vice-Presidents of the Society, and who, together with the Secretary and Vice-Skips, form the annual committee of management. That the deeds of these curlers are matters of proud recollection to the Society at Lochmaben, we have evidence in the following account taken from a work called *Curliana*.

Though the mantle of oblivion shrouds many of the exploits of antiquity, enough of modern victories remains to be told, to arouse the jealousy of our curling confederates. The first of the curling heroes we shall mention, is, Deacon Jardine, who flourished from the beginning of the eighteenth century downwards. He was a very celebrated player at Lochmaben, and his name has survived the lapse of a hundred and thirty years.

Walter Dryden, his successor, flourished about the middle of the century. Great things are spoken of his skill and prowess; and of the numerous *bonspiels* he fought and won. He was succeeded in his office by his great rival and contemporary—

Baillie James Carruthers—the redoubted Bonaparte, so dubbed from the distinguished success with which he long headed our ice. He died full of years and honour about the close of the last century, and was succeeded by his pupil in the glacial art, the present President, under whose conduct the Society has reached its present high and palmy state; and of whom, when he shall have thrown his last stone, it may truly be said, take him for all and all, we shall ne'er see his like again.

Then follows a list of eminent ice-players who fought along with the forementioned, sharing the honour and pride of the victory; and we are gravely told that *during the course of the French War* eight curlers (whose names and native places are given at length) sustained the renown of the Lochmaben ice; and after numerous victories over the curlers of the adjoining parishes, obtained, like Bonaparte's famous legion, the name of the "*Invincibles*." At length the curlers of Closeburn having acquired by their prowess upon the "transparent boards," as much celebrity as their rivals of Lochmaben, resolved during the ice-campaign of 1819-20, to try which of the parties should bear the palm; accordingly, a challenge was despatched by them, and cordially accepted. This match is described with much life and humour in the above-mentioned work. The author tells us that from the moment the tocsin was sounded, "Lochmaben through all her curling population was quite on the *qui vive*." Rinks were assorted, and all due preparation made for the important encounter. At length the morning, "big with the fate of channel-stones and fame," arrived, and witnessed the pouring in of the adjacent population, eager to see the exploits of the day,—and the lengthened file of the Closeburnian champions, bearing down upon the scene of action,

Wi' channel-stanes baith glib an' strong  
Their army did advance;  
Their crampets o' the trusty steel,  
Like bucklers broad did glance.

A band wi' besoms high upreared  
Weel made o' broom the best,  
Before them like a moving wood  
Unto the combat prest.

The renown of the parties, the distance travelled by the challengers, the numerous body assembled, all invested this encounter with an interest, rather approaching to that which attends the inroad of some hostile aggression than the engagement of "eighty peaceable and friendly curlers, whose stake was the honour of their respective parishes, the forfeit, beef and greens." At eleven the sport began. We must give the account of the game in the author's own words.

At first, notwithstanding the cautious tact, and cool possession of the Closeburnians, success seemed to promise a hollow triumph to the Lochmaben party. Their senior rink gained an easy victory over the adverse president's. The second stood at one time 20 shots to 4; when security bred carelessness, and it ultimately won, though with but small credit, comparatively, to itself. The third and fourth eventually lost. The fate of the *bonspiel* now turned upon the success of our junior rink: all then crowded around to witness the termination; and the anxiety of both parties, and of the spectators, wound up to the highest pitch, accumulated, as the game approached, and became more and more intense as it reached its ultimatum, upon both combatants attaining to twenty. The decisive spell remained:

How stands the game? 'tis like to like—  
Now! for the winning shot man!

The stone was thrown amidst the eager breathless grins of the players—the sweepers plied it in—Lochmaben had it! and if

Triumphant besoms flow (not) in air,  
and if the "moment's silence still as death" which had per-



vaded the anxious throng, gave place to no "sudden burst of the victors' shout, or to

Hurrahs long and loud, man!"

it was only because an honourable etiquette forbids all such vociferous rejoicings over a prostrate foe.

On the termination of this great match, the parties shook hands, left the ice together in the height of good fellowship, and spent the remainder of the day together, forming new friendships and talking over their mutual exploits. At a subsequent period the curlers of Closeburn had opportunities of redeeming the honour of their parish, by conquering the celebrated curlers of Lochmaben.

Every curling society, it appears, has its noted curling stones, relics of the olden time, and of the introduction of the game, which are looked upon with veneration and carefully preserved. One of the most remarkable at Lochmaben is a stone called the "Famous Hen." This was used for many years in all parish spiels, but seems to be a rough and cumbrous stone, little adapted to modern use.

Curling is confessedly somewhat of a boisterous game. Burns calls it "a roarin' play," but there are circumstances which control the manners of the players. All ranks are there mixed together, and we have the testimony of a participator in the sport, that the lower seem anxious not to prove themselves unworthy of the society of their superiors; and the latter are aware that they would have just cause to be ashamed, were they to yield to the former in those points which are essential in constituting a true gentleman. An oath or indecent expression is unknown upon the ice. It is affirmed that not only upon the grand occasions of parish spiels, but even on less important rencontres, there appears always to be infused into the minds of the participators, a kind of honourable and gentlemanlike feeling, which, in many of them, may not be remarkable on other occasions; but which in some instances insinuates itself into the manners, so as to become a distinguishing feature in the character even of men in the lowest stations of life.

THOUGH fools spurn Hymen's gentle powers,

They who improve his golden hours

By sweet experience know,

That marriage, rightly understood,

Gives to the tender and the good

A paradise below.—DR. COTTON.

We must not love virtue for the bare sake of reputation and human esteem. To do good, purely to be gazed at, and talked of, and applauded, this was the character of the Pharisees, whose vices were real, and whose virtues were imaginary; but had their virtues been as real as their vices, this poor view and narrow purpose would have spoilt them all; and they could only expect their reward where they sought it, that is, from men.—JORTIN.

To do nothing, is in many cases to do a positive wrong; and as such, requires a positive punishment. To stand neuter in dangerous commotions of the state, the great Athenian lawgiver declared to be a crime against the state; and in like manner the great Christian lawgiver declares, "He that is not with me, is against me; and he that gathereth not with me, scattereth abroad."—PORTEUS.

It has been the universal opinion of mankind, that personal experience of suffering humanizes the heart. In the school of affliction, compassion is always supposed to be most thoroughly learned; and hence, in the laws of Moses, when the Israelites are commanded not to oppress the stranger, this reason is given: "For you know the heart of a stranger, seeing you were strangers yourselves in the land of Egypt."—BLAIR.

PARENT of wicked, bane of honest deeds,

Pernicious Flattery! thy malignant seeds,

In an ill hour, and by a fatal hand,

Sadly diffused o'er Virtue's gleby land,

With rising pride amidst the corn appear,

And choke the hopes and harvests of the year.—PRIOR.

## OLD ENGLISH NAVIGATORS.

SIR JAMES LANCASTER.

HIS EXPEDITION TO THE EAST INDIES\*.

ALTHOUGH the last voyage of Lancaster was attended with so many misfortunes and difficulties, yet the experience which this distinguished navigator had gained therein, encouraged the English Merchants to fit out another expedition. Many English seamen and merchants had visited the East in foreign vessels, and agreed in representing it as an easy matter to establish factories, and carry on a lucrative trade in the Indies. The chief London merchants determined, therefore, to accomplish this end, and, accordingly, they formed a joint-stock company, with a capital of 72,000*l.*, and found no difficulty in obtaining from Queen Elizabeth a charter, dated the 31st December, 1600, by which they were incorporated as "The Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading to the East Indies." This charter was exclusive, the Queen binding herself not to grant a charter to any other merchants for a space of fifteen years. The company thereupon fitted out four ships in the undertaking, viz., the *Dragon* of 600 tons, the *Hector* of 300 tons, the *Ascension* of 260 tons, a small vessel called the *Susan*, and a small victualler called the *Guest*.

The merchants were suters to her Majesty, who gave them her friendly letters of commendation, written to divers princes of India, offering to enter into a league of peace and amitie with them. And because no great action can well be carried and accomplished, without an absolute authority of Justice, shee granted to the Generall of their Fleet, Master James Lancaster, for his better command and government, a commission of martiall law.

The ships sailed from Woolwich on the 13th February, 1601, and after having experienced some delay from contrary winds, they finally left Tor Bay on the 18th April, directing their course towards the Canaries. Proceeding onwards to the coast of Africa, they "found the calmes and contrarie winds, which upon this coast of Ginney, at this time of the yeare, are very familiar with many sudden gustes of wind, stormes, thunder and lightning, very fearfull to be seene, and dangerous to the shippes, unless a diligent care be had, that all sayles be stricken downe upon the sudden, perceiving the aire never so little to change or alter. And yet many times, although the masters of ships were carefull and looked into it with great diligence, the suddennesse was such, that it could hardly be prevented." From the 20th of May to the 21st of June they were much becalmed, but not altogether inactive, for they captured a Portuguese merchant-ship which had parted company with three galleons which were "ships of warre, and went to keepe the coast of the East India from being traded with by other nations." They divided among themselves the cargo of the ship, which consisted of wine, oil, and meal.

On the last day of June, they "doubled the line and lost the sight of the north star." Some time afterwards they discharged, or emptied, the *Guest*, their store ship: took her masts, sails, and yards, and some of her "higher buildings" for fire-wood, and abandoned her. During two or three months, the men suffered severely from the scurvy, except in Lancaster's vessel, where they were made to take lemon-juice every morning, and thus they were preserved in health, and able to assist the other ships in which the men were so weak, that the merchants had to perform their work. With some difficulty they managed to get to Saldanha Bay, on the south-west of Africa, when Lancaster went "a-land to seek some refreshing for our sicke and weake men, where hee met with certaine of the countrey people, and gave them divers trifles, as knives and pieces of old iron, and such like, and made signes to them to bring him down sheepe and oxen. For he spake to them in the cattel's

\* The relation of this expedition is contained in Purchas's *Pilgrime*, from which our account is abridged.

language, which was never changed at the confusion of Babel, which was *Mooah*, for oxen and kine, and *Baa*, for sheepe; which language the people understood very well, without any interpreter\*." The ships' crews were then allowed to land, in order to improve their health on shore, and also under certain sensible restrictions, to trade with the natives, who supplied them abundantly with sheep and cattle. "The people of this place are all of a tawny colour, of a reasonable stature, swift of foot, and much given to picke and steale: their speech is wholly uttered through the throate, and they clocke with their tongues in such sorte, that in seven weekes, which wee remained heere in this place, the sharpest wit among us could not learne one word of their language: and yet the people would soone understand any signe wee made to them." In this bay our mariners had so "royall refreshing" that all the men, with the exception of four or five, recovered their health and strength.

Towards the end of October, they resumed their voyage, and doubled the Cape of Good Hope without difficulty. They proceeded onward, occasionally landing to procure oranges and lemons, as an antidote to the scurvy, which again troubled the men, until they reached the island of Virginia, now called Madagascar, where they remained a considerable time in order to build a pinnace. During their stay here, Lancaster lost his chaplain, surgeon, and master's mate. The funeral of this last person was accompanied by a very melancholy occurrence. The body was taken ashore to be buried, and in order to pay respect to the memory of the deceased, three cannon were fired, from which by some inadvertence the bullets had not been drawn. The consequence was, that the boat of the Ascension, containing the captain and the boatswain's mate, was struck, and these persons killed, "so that they that went to see the burial of another, were both buried there themselves."

After leaving Madagascar, they came in about ten days to an island called Rogue-Pize, which they coasted, and "it seemed very faire, and pleasant, exceeding full of foule and coco-nut trees: and there came from the land such a pleasant smell, as if it had bene a garden of flowers." They now began to derive much benefit from the pinnace; for being in frequent danger of running upon rocks, the pinnace took the lead and made signal of the depth, so that the other ships might thereby follow her. Some time after they reached the Nicobar islands, where the natives visited them in long canoes, and sold them gums instead of amber, whereby many were deceived.

On the 5th of June, 1602, they arrived at Acheen in the Island of Sumatra, where they found some sixteen or eighteen ships of divers nations. They were visited by two Holland merchants, who told them they would be welcome to the king of Sumatra, who was desirous

of entertaining strangers, and that the Queen of England was very famous in those parts by reason of the great victories which she had gained over the king of Spain. Whereupon Lancaster sent his vice-admiral to the king, to inform him that he was sent from the general of those ships, who had a message and a letter from the most famous Queen of England, and requesting an audience. The reception was very friendly, the messenger was feasted and dismissed with presents, and an invitation to the general to land,—the king promising that he should have "kind audience and frank leave, with as great assurance as if he were in the kingdom of the queene his mistris. And if he doubted of anything of this his royall word, such honourable pledges should be sent him, for his further assurance, as he should rest very well satisfied therewith."

On the third day Lancaster landed in order to visit the king. At his first landing the Holland merchants conducted him to their house, when a nobleman from the king waited upon him for the queen's letter, which Lancaster refused to deliver, because it was the custom of ambassadors to deliver letters to the king himself, and not to a representative. Whereupon he demanded to see the letter, which was immediately produced, and after looking very earnestly upon the seal, and taking a note of the superscription, departed.

Presently the king sent sixe great elephants with many trumpets, drums, and streamers with much people, to accompany the generall to the court; so that the presse was exceeding great. The biggest of these elephants was about thirteene or fourteene feet high, which had a small castle, like a couch upon his back, covered with crimson velvet. In the middle thereof, was a great bason of gold, and a piece of silk, exceeding richly wrought to cover it: under which her majestie's letter was put. The generall was mounted upon another of the elephants.

Having arrived at the court-gate the cavalcade stopped, while an announcement thereof was made to the king, who desired the general to enter.

And when the generall came to the king's presence he made his obeysance after the manner of the country, declaring that he was sent from the most mightie Queene of England to congratulate with his highnesse, and treat with him concerning a peace and amitie with his majestie if it pleased him to entertaine the same. And therewithal began to enter into further discourse, which the king brake off, saying: I am sure you are weary of the long travaile you have taken, I would have you to sit downe and refresh yourselfe. You are very welcome, and heere you shall have whatsoever you will in any reasonable conditions demand for your princesse sake: for she is worthy of all kindnesse and franke conditions, being a princesse of greate noblesse, for fame speaketh so much of her.

The general then delivered the queen's letter and a present, which was, "a bason of silver with a fountaine in the midst of it, weighing 205 ounces, a great standing cup of silver, a rich looking glasse, an headpiece with a plume of feathers, a case of very faire daggers, a rich wrought embroidered belt to hang a sword in, and a fan of feathers." This last article most attracted the royal fancy, for the king caused himself to be fanned therewith to his very great delight. The general was then invited to a banquet upon the ground: the food was served in dishes of pure gold, or of another metal "called *Tambaycke*, which groweth of gold and brasse together."

In this banquet the king (as he sate aloft in a gallery about a fathom from the grounde) drank oft to the generall in their wine which they call *Racke*. This wine is made of rice, and is as strong as any of our aqua vite,—a little will serve to bring one asleepe. The generall after the first draught dranke either water mingled therewithall, or pure water, the king gave him leave so to doe: for the generall craved his pardon, as not able to drinke so stronge drinke. ¶

After the feast, the guests being first entertained with music and dancing, were dismissed with many presents.

A short time after this the king appointed Lancaster

\* A parallel case is related by Dr. McPherson in his recent *Narrative of the Chinese Expedition*. The city referred to in the quotation is Tin-hai, the capital town of the Island of Chusan:—

"After the troops had all taken up cantonments in the city, the Chinese as they returned opened shops in the midst of their quarters, and finding that the soldiers had plenty of money, used every inducement to get their custom. The 'tolah' and 'loopee' becoming most familiar terms, a *lingua franca* rapidly sprung up, composed of words and sounds from the European, Asiatic, and Chinese languages. Nor was it confined to these in particular, for the imitation of the lowing of cattle, and cackling of poultry were introduced: the repetition of the words, 'cackle' 'cackle,' being the first method of making known the want of cocks and hens, they were thenceforth called 'kak,' while ducks were 'wak,' and geese were 'his-wack'; the oxen and cows being yeapt 'boo,' which had originated from our first foraging parties, indicating that they were in want of those animals by putting their arms over their foreheads, and exclaiming 'boo! boo! boo!' Dogs of course were naturally 'bow-wows,' and thus quickly all the articles in common use got named."

An amusing anecdote in connexion with this subject is told of Captain Anstruther, during his confinement in Ningpo:—

"One day a Mandarin sent him a very savoury stew, garnished with shark's fins and birds' nests, in compensation for a likeness which he had taken of the nodding gentlemen. Anstruther having tasted the delicious contents, gave an inquisitive look at the attendant, and pointing to the stew said:—'Quack, quack, quack?' The servant shook his head, and replied,—'Bow, wow, wow!'"



to a conference with two of his ministers, in order that they might ascertain more clearly from him the reasons why the king should accede to the request contained in the queen's letter. The conference was carried on in Arabic, the general having, "before his going out of England, entertained a Jew, who spake that language perfectly, which stood him in good stead at that time." The points urged by Lancaster were:—

Her majesty's mutuall love.

Her worthinesse in protecting others against the King of Spaine, the common enemy of these parts. Her noble mind which refused the offer of those countries.

Nor will she suffer any prince to exceed her in kindnesse.

Whose forces have exceeded the Spaniards in many victories.

And hindered the Portuguese attempts against these parts.

The Grand Signor of Turkie hath already entered into league with her majesty on honourable conditions.

Moreover, it is not unknown to the king what prosperitie trade of merchandize bringeth to all lands: with increase of their revenues by the custome of these commences.

Also, princes grow into the more renowne and strength and are the more feared for the wealth of their subjects, which by the concourse of merchandizes grow and increase.

And the more kindly that strangers are entertained, the more the trade doth grow. The prince is thereby much enriched also.

And for Acheen in particular, this port lieth well, to answer to the trade of all Bengala, Java, and the Moluccas, and all China. And these places having vent of their merchandize will not let [*i.e.* hinder] to resort hither with them. So that, by this meanes, the royaltie of the king's crowne will greatly increase to the decrease and diminishing of all the Portugals' trade, and their great forces in the Indies.

And if it shall happen that his majesty wanteth any artificers, hee may have them out of our kingdom, giving them content for their travaile; and free cause to goe, as they have good will to come. And any other necessarie, that our country bringeth forth, and may spare, shall be at the king's command and service.

But I hope his majesty will not urge any demands more than her majesty may willingly consent unto: or that shall be contrarie to her honour and lawes, and the league she hath made with all Christian princes her neighbours.

Lancaster then demanded the proclamation to be made for the safety of his people, and

This request was so well-performed, that although there were a strict order that none of their owne people might walke by night, yet ours might goe both night and day, without impeachment of any. Only if they found any of ours abroad at unlawful houres, the Justice brought them home to the generall's house, and there delivered them.

The result of this negotiation was, that a league was entered into with England, in which were granted the English:—

1. Free entry and trade.
2. Custom free whatsoever they brought in or carried forth; and assistance with their vessels and shipping, to save our ships, goods, and men from wreeke in any dangers.
3. Liberty of testament to bequeath their goods to whom they please.
4. Stability of bargaines and orders for payment by the subjects of Acheen, &c.
5. Authority to execute justice on their owne men offending.
6. Justice against injuries from the natives.
7. Not to arrest or stay our goods, or set prizes on them.
8. Freedom of conscience.

Having been thus far successful, Lancaster's next object was, to obtain a cargo of pepper, wherewith to return home; but in this he encountered many difficulties, partly on account of the failure of the crop during the previous year, and partly on account of the schemes of the Portuguese. He therefore left some merchants at Achen to procure pepper, cinnamon, and cloves, and put out to sea in order to procure a cargo at some other island, but by the way happening to fall in with a large Portuguese merchant ship he captured her, and found a cargo ready to his hand.

On returning to Achen, Lancaster went to take leave of the king, when an answer to the queen's letter was

given him, together with a present for her majesty, consisting of "three faire cloathes, richly wrought with gold of very cunning worke, and a very faire rubie in a ring." As Lancaster was about to take his leave, the king inquired:—

'Have you the Psalms of David extant among you?' The general answered, 'Yea, and wee sing them daily.' Then said the king, 'I and the rest of those nobles will sing a psalme to God for your prosperitie.' And so they did very solemnly. And after it was ended the king said, 'I would hear you sing another psalm, although in your own language.' So there being in the company some twelve of us, we sung another psalme. And after the psalme was ended the generall tooke his leave of the king; the king showing him much kindnesse at his departure, desiring God to bless us in our journey, and to guide us safely into our owne country.

On the 9th November, they departed for Java, first sending the Ascension home to England, with letters, &c., and intending to follow as soon as their cargo was complete, and a similar visit to the king of Bantam had been made, for whom another letter from the Queen had been prepared. He was received kindly by the king of Bantam, a child of ten or eleven years of age, and referred to a nobleman who was protector; and the conference was so successful, that a brisk trade was almost immediately begun between the merchants and the natives, and the cargo soon completed. Some merchants and men were left in Bantam, for the purpose of settling a factory, a pinnace was appointed for the purpose of trading in the Moluccas, and in February they set sail for England.

During their passage to the Cape of Good Hope they encountered two fearful storms, in the second of which the rudder of Lancaster's ship was lost, and thus being thrown about at the mercy of the wind and waves, he scarcely hoped to save his ship: his men too became discontented, and wished to abandon her, and proceed home in the Hector. Perceiving this, he gave a secret order to the master of that ship, the captain having died at Bantam, to depart and leave him there. He also wrote the following very characteristic letter to the London merchants, who were interested in the success of the embassy:—

'Right worshipful, what hath passed in this voyage, and what trades I have settled for this companie, and what other events have befallen us, you shall understand by the bearers hereof, to whom (as occasion hath fallen) I must referre you. I will strive with all diligence to save my ship, and her goods, as you may perceive, by the course I take in venturing mine owne life, and those that are with mee. I cannot tell where you should looke for mee, if you send out any pinnace to seeke mee; because I live at the devotion of the winds and seas. And thus fare you well, desiring God to send us a merrie meeting in this world, if it be his good-will and pleasure.

Your very loving friend, JAMES LANCASTER.

On this occasion, however, the master of the Hector, who "loved the generall well, and was loth to leave him in so great distresse," not only refused to part company, but sent some of his men, and by dint of great exertions they succeeded in fitting on another rudder. The weather still continuing unfavourable, they were unable to make the Cape of Good Hope; they therefore made for St. Helena, and were fortunate enough to arrive safely at that welcome resting place. Having been three months at sea, the prospect of fresh meat, and recreation on land, was pleasant.

In this island there is very good refreshing of water and wild goats, but they are hard to come by, unless good direction be given for the getting of them. And this course our generall tooke; he appointed foure lusty men, and of the best shot he had, to go into the island, and make their abode in the midst of it, and to every shot he appointed four men to attend him, to carrie the goats that hee killed to the rendezvous; thither went every day twentie men to fetch home to the ships what was killed. So there was no

hoisting or rumour in the island to feare the goats withall. And by this meanes the ships were plentifully relieved, and every man contented.

The remainder of the passage was prosperous. On the 11th September, 1603, "wee came to the Downes well and safe to an anchor: for the which thanked be Almighty God, who hath delivered us from infinite perils and dangers, in this long and tedious navigation."

### GUANO, A NEW MANURE.

AMONG the various substances which have been lately tried by English agriculturists as fertilisers of the soil, none appears to be more powerful in its effects than *Guano*, a manure recently imported from the *Guano* Islands on the coast of Peru. The state in which it is received into this country, is that of a fine brown or fawn-coloured powder, emitting a strong marine smell: it blackens when heated, and gives off strong fumes of ammonia.

It is in fact nothing more than the excrements of sea birds, which resort in vast numbers to the small rocky islands of the Pacific Ocean. Thus the soil of the islands Chinche, Ilo, Iza, and Arica, is covered with these excrements, and at Chinche alone, at the time when Humboldt wrote, fifty vessels were annually loaded with this manure, each trader carrying from 1500 to 2000 cubic feet. The manure thus collected is conveyed to the barren soil of Peru, where the finest vegetation and richest crops are obtained solely by its means. The guano is so astonishingly abundant, that it is said to form a stratum several feet in thickness on the surface of the islands.

Mr. Winterfeldt, writing on this subject, says, that the date of the first employment of guano as a manure is unknown, although no doubt exists of its great antiquity. In many parts of America where the soil is volcanic or sandy, there would be little or no produce without the aid of some such powerful fertiliser. It has been calculated that from 12,000 to 14,000 cwt. are annually sold in the port of Mollendo, for the use of the country round the city of Arequipa. In this district 3 cwt. of guano is spread over an extent of five thousand square yards (about an English acre). In the province of Taracapa, and in the valleys of Tambo and Victor, all kinds of trees and plants, with the single exception of the sugar cane, are manured with the guano; and in this district 5 cwt. are required to the acre.

There are three varieties of guano bearing different prices on the coast of Peru. The white guano bears the highest price, as it is fresher, purer, and less abundant than the other kinds, which are the red and dark-grey.

Sir Joseph Banks appears to have been one of the first in this country to direct attention to this extraordinary fertiliser. He said of it, "It answers the purpose of manure in a degree infinitely superior to any other article we have the knowledge of. A handful is considered as sufficient for several square yards of land, the produce of which is exuberant, in consequence of the force of this application." This strong recommendation of the guano was subsequently found to be perfectly justifiable.

The manure was first imported into England in 1840, by Mr. Myers, of Liverpool, and since that time the trials made by several individuals have been productive of the greatest success. But previous to this, it had undergone a set of the most elaborate experiments in the island of St. Helena, and its efficacy was abundantly tested as it respected the culture of potatoes, and the growth of grass. The late General Beatson, who made these experiments, found that the effect of the guano upon the grass lands was comparatively greater than

with potatoes. On the 29th July, 1808, General Beatson marked out a space on the lawn, in front of Plantation House, St. Helena, which measured one rod in breadth and twelve rods in length; this was divided into twelve equal parts or square rods, and numbered progressively from 1 to 12. The guano was reduced to a powder and sifted, and upon No. 1 a quart of this powder was evenly strewed by the hand; this is at the rate of five Winchester bushels per acre, because 160 square rods, or an acre, would have required that number of quarts, or exactly five bushels. In the same manner, No. 2 had two quarts, No. 3 three quarts, and so on, to No. 12, which had twelve quarts. From the 29th of July, there were daily drizzling rains until the 5th of August, when the effects of this invaluable manure began to appear. On the following day, the whole extent of the twelve rods became highly verdant, and exhibited such a contrast to the unmanured part of the lawn, that it had the appearance of having been newly turfed with a finer kind of sod. The effect gradually increased, and in the first week in October, that is, in a little more than two months, the higher numbers, from 6 to 12, having from thirty to sixty bushels per acre, excited the surprise of all who saw them, being covered with the richest and most exuberant grass that can be imagined, and having more the appearance of a crop of young wheat very thickly sown, than of any grass previously seen. This was the more remarkable, as the copious rains which fell in August and the spring season had made no visible effect on the adjoining part of the lawn. From a frequent and careful inspection of these experiments, General Beatson estimated thirty-five bushels of guano per acre to be equivalent in effect upon grass lands to seventy loads of well-rotted dung. He says—

I have been informed that guano is sold at Lima, and at other towns on the coast of Peru, for a dollar a bag of fifty pounds weight, and that it is much in use for manuring fruit trees and gardens. It is certainly one of the most powerful of manures, and therefore it is necessary to be cautious in using it. I have observed when too much is laid on grass, that it burns and destroys it. I would therefore recommend to those who may try it on fruit trees, to begin with not more than three-quarters of a pint to each tree, and to trench it about a foot deep all round the roots. If the first application be found insufficient, a second or third may be given at intervals of two or three months; or a better mode, perhaps, of determining the quantity of guano proper for each fruit tree, would be to select about a dozen trees of the same kind and size, and to vary the quantities by an easy progression, from three-quarters of a pint to one or two quarts, or more, to each tree.

The guano manure has now been tried in several parts of England, and always with good effect, though in some cases the results have not been such as were anticipated, on account of an over-estimate of its powers, and the consequent employment of too small a quantity. There are notices in the *Farmers' Magazine* of some satisfactory experiments with this manure. Mr. Smith, of Gunton Park, Norfolk, applied 200lbs. of guano to an acre, and on the same field, on an equal space of land, fifteen bushels of bone-dust. Both were drilled into the ground with seed-wheat. The bone-dust gave four and a half quarters of wheat, the guano six quarters two bushels, one and a half pecks. Mr. Love, of Shoreham, Sevenoaks, relates that he mixed 14lbs. of guano with two bushels of ashes, and although the weather was very dry, he perceived a marked difference in the growth of the plants a few days after they were put in. Encouraged by this, he then mixed 28lbs. with 15 bushels of ashes and applied it for turnips, by sowing broad-cast on the land, and harrowing it in lightly. The seed soon vegetated, and the plants grew away from those manured with dung and mould. In each case the guano was applied at the rate of two cwt. to the acre. Mr. John Crane Nott, of Hallow, Worcestershire, gives the result of his trial of this manure on hop-grounds. In



order to give it a fair trial, he put about a pint to every alternate hill in each row; and the effect was most extraordinary. Those hills on which the guano was applied were most luxuriant; while the adjoining ones not so manured were sickly and weak.

Thus it appears that a valuable fertiliser is added to the manures already employed by the English farmer; but it is probable that its powers have been in some instances exaggerated. From two to four hundred weight per acre must be considered as the smallest quantity that should be applied by drill. Like most other articles of high price, it has become subject to adulteration.

### RURAL SONNET.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE CATHEDRAL BELL."

GIVE to the Poor!—warm clothing—firing—food—  
At once, unsparingly, and humbly give;  
Prevent the winter cough, the frame-chilled brood  
Of throes which make it weariness to live.  
For, lo! November, drenched in fogs and rains,  
Glooms on the air, and incubates the earth;  
Days, short and fickle, nip the labourer's gains,  
And bring increase—of suffering and of death.  
Lucky the woodmen who shall find employ;  
The hinds, who stall the kine; or pen the sheep;  
Plant the young tree; or, lest the floods destroy,  
Extend the drainage, and the courses keep.  
The busy, and the bounteous, at this time,  
Are mind and body-warm, alone, throughout our clime.

It is for the sake of man, not of God, that worship and prayers are required; not that God may be rendered more glorious, but that man may be made better; that he may be confirmed in a proper sense of his dependent state, and acquire those pious and virtuous dispositions, in which his highest improvement consists.—BLAIR.

### THE MILITARY-FRONTIER SYSTEM OF AUSTRIA.

THERE is a belt of country, round the southern border of the Austrian empire, occupied in a manner to which there is perhaps nothing analogous in any other part of Europe. There are military colonies in one country, national guards in another, militia regiments in a third, but nothing which can be strictly compared with the *Military Frontier* of Austria, and the tenure by which land therein is possessed.

In seeking to account for the nature and origin of this system, it is necessary to bear in mind that Austria, —or rather the Austrian empire—is not like France, a compact territory, in which the inhabitants have been for ages amalgamated into one united whole; but is composed of many disjointed or ill-joined parts, acquired at different times, and by different means. The empire contains the kingdoms of Hungary, Bohemia, Galicia, Lombardy and Venice, Illyria, and Dalmatia; the archduchy of Austria; the principality of Transylvania; the duchy of Styria; the margraviate of Moravia; and the county of the Tyrol. The inhabitants of these countries speak various languages and dialects, and have in many respects interests hostile to each other. Long before Austria had risen to a position of note, it was a duchy under the emperors of Germany, and the district, now called Lower Austria, was constituted a military frontier to protect the other provinces of Germany from the predatory excursions of the Huns, or natives of Hungary. The military frontier of modern times, however, lies south-east of the one here indicated, and was established to protect—not Germany from the Huns—but Hungary from the Turks.

At the time when Hungary was an independent kingdom, the river Save and the lower course of the Danube formed the only boundary between it and the

Turkish provinces on the south; and the country thus became exposed to the depredations of their southern neighbours, who lived in a great measure by war and plunder. Some of these depredators permanently settled in the country; and the Hungarians were induced to give them up a portion of the border country, on condition of their defending the territory from farther incursions. Some few years before Hungary became subject to Austria, attempts were made to consolidate these borderers into regiments at one or two points; and as the Turks left the territory more and more free by degrees, the border system was gradually extended. When the whole of Hungary passed under the Austrian yoke, the border-guard was reduced to a system, and became, in process of time, carried out along the whole line separating the Austrian and Turkish empires, extending to a distance of eight hundred miles. The object has been, and still is, to maintain a border-guard, which, in peace, might be employed for purposes of quarantine and customs, and in war, to serve as a portion of the standing army.

The terms of agreement existing between the borderers and the government are remarkable. A belt of land extending along the whole frontier has been divided among the inhabitants, and is held as fiefs on the tenure of military and civil service. Each fief, which consists of from thirty-six to fifty acres of land, is bound to furnish, to maintain, and to clothe, one or two men-at-arms, one in the smaller, and two in the larger fiefs. These men-at-arms are formed into regiments, a regiment comprising all those residing within a certain district; and at the head of each regiment is a colonel, who, with his staff and subordinate officers, has, except in a few privileged towns, the entire civil and military administration. Two regiments form a brigade; and these brigades form four great divisions, each commanded by a high general officer, whose head-quarters are respectively at Agram, Peterwardien, Temesvar, and Hermanstadt. The discipline is therefore strictly military; the men in each regiment receiving their orders directly from the colonel; the colonel from the general of brigade; he again from the commander of the district; and lastly, the district commander being under orders from the Hofkriegsrath, or Council of War, at Vienna.

The arrangements whereby each fief is enabled to furnish one man-at-arms are as follow:—The fief is given to a family, consisting of several members, and called by a German name equivalent to "House-communion," the eldest or most influential couple being the "House-father" and the "House-mother." These two have the superintendence of the farm and the house, the duty of providing for the whole family, and the right to exercise a social and moral control over all of its members. In order to maintain the respectability of the "House-fathers" generally, no one can fill that office who has been punished for a crime; and drunken or immoral conduct is sufficient to deprive him of that to which he would by age be entitled. The authority of the House-father is, however, confined within well-understood limits; for the other men of the family must be consulted on any great changes, such as purchases and sales, and at the end of the year they may demand from the House-father an account of the expenditure. The purchases and sales here alluded to relate principally to provisions and agricultural produce; for the fief itself, and the implements and cattle necessary for its cultivation, cannot be sold.

Although each fief is only bound to supply one, or at most two, men-at-arms for permanent service, yet the greater part of the adult males are required to practise military exercises, for occasional services. The males are divided into invalids, half-invalids, enrolled, and youths; the third class comprising all adult males in good health. The men-at-arms are about fifty-thousand in number, but the adult males more or less familiar with

military tactics amount to no fewer than two hundred thousand. In time of peace the men-at-arms are required to devote only a portion of their time to active service; the greater number remaining in their houses, ready to be called out at an hour's notice; a small number mounting guard at the head-quarters of the regiment; and about five thousand keeping watch on the frontier night and day, the guard being relieved once a fortnight. These borderers are stationed in wooden boxes or huts set on piles, and furnished with open galleries around them, the huts being built along the morasses on the banks of the Save and the Danube. From one end of the frontier to the other these sentry-boxes or temporary dwellings are placed at intervals of about half-a-mile asunder; and so perfect is the system, that when any alarm is given, either by the firing of signal guns or the burning of beacons, the whole fifty thousand men-at-arms along the entire frontier are assembled in arms in three or four hours. The frontier-man has also the duty of transporting letters, as well as the money and baggage of the regiment. He has to devote four days per month in winter, and seven in summer, to exercise in his military duties.

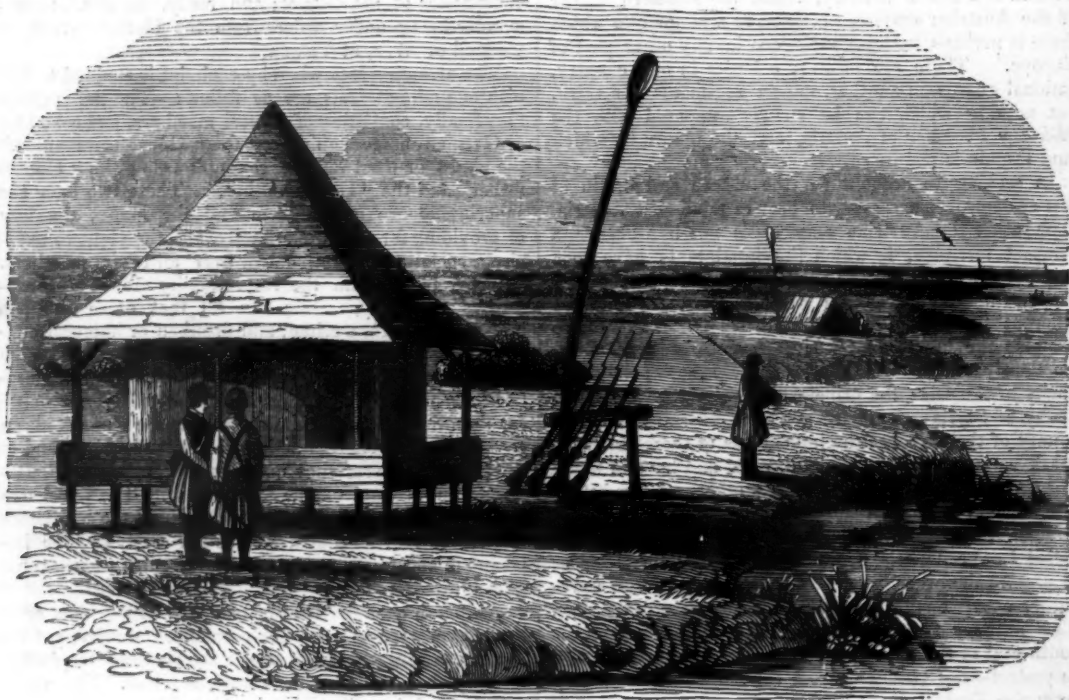
Respecting the household arrangements of the fiefs, Mr. Paget, in his valuable work on Hungary, states,—

A portion of land called *Überland*,—land over and above the quantity required for the fiefs,—and any excess of cattle and production, may be sold with the consent of a superior officer. All the members of the family are allowed to marry, and marriage is even held out to them as an honourable duty. When a family becomes rich or too large its members are allowed to divide, and the party separating receives another fief, either by grant or purchase of *überland*, within the frontier district, which then becomes a feudal fief. Such as leave the frontier service have no right in the property of the family. The land is cultivated for the common good of all the members of a family; and the profit, if any remains after the taxes and other expenses are defrayed, is divided among them. No individual is allowed to keep cattle, or to work for his own exclusive profit,—at least, without permission of the rest. In most cases a whole family, consisting of many married couples with their children, sometimes to the number of fifty

individuals, live under the same roof, cultivate the same land, eat at the same table, and obey the same father.

Mr. Paget also informs us that the border family has to render a certain amount of civil service,—one day per annum for every acre—to the state, for repairing post-roads, bridges, and public buildings, draining swamps, and regulating water-courses; as well as a service of eight days per annum to the village, in building churches and school-houses, keeping the village roads in order, cutting wood for the school, and working the farms of widows and orphans. The government gives shoes, arms, leather-work, and a sum of twelve shillings per annum, towards the support of each man-at-arms; the House-communion furnishes the rest, besides paying a land-tax of from fifteen to thirty shillings per annum for the fief. When, however, for any state purpose, a regiment is removed beyond its native district, the whole expense is borne by the government.

Both Mr. Paget and Mr. Turnbull, who have visited the military frontiers within the last three or four years, speak of it on the whole as being rather unfavourable to the national character. The latter gentleman observes:—"By the progress of education, and an excellent though very severe administration, the government seeks to improve the character of these borders; but taken generally, they are a rude and ferocious class of men, bad cultivators of the soil, and given to idleness and intemperance. They are not, however, ill-suited to the wild service of the frontier." With all their faults, the borderers might make us blush nearer home; for it is stated that in the Transylvanian frontier eight-tenths of the boys, and five-tenths of the girls, between seven and twelve years of age, can read and write; while in the Hungarian portion of the frontier, nine-tenths of the whole are in that favourable position. In judicial matters, criminal cases are decided by a court-martial of officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers; but civil cases by a court composed of a lieutenant, a serjeant-major, two serjeants, two corporals, and two house-fathers,—the captain having a confirmatory voice.



MILITARY STATION ON THE AUSTRIAN FRONTIER.